

PRESIDENT MOUL: Senator Landis.

SENATOR LANDIS: Madam President, members of the Legislature, 30 states have done studies of the gender bias that appears in their judicial system. Nebraska should follow suit. I'm asking us to appropriate 25,000 dollars for one year. It's the first half of a study to do that. What happens is this. In those 30 states the record is clear, you go out and you look for and you find patterns that show several things. One, disparate treatment between men and women in sentencing for criminal offenses and, oddly enough, for lower petty bad check forgery items women are sentenced for longer periods of time than are men. You find disparate treatment with respect to men not receiving as good visitation rights in the custody of children when they are the noncustodial parents than when women are the noncustodial parents. What we find is that men and women are treated differently in our judicial system. There are inequities on both sides of the scale. If you're a practicing lawyer, you know about judges who call some of the women lawyers "honey", or address them by their first names while they address the male lawyers by their last names. What the study does is to go out and document what is undeniably there. That study helps us analyze and prepare the kinds of things to do to bring that to an end. Twenty-five thousand dollars is not an unreasonable amount to call together, pay the costs for a very esteemed member...a panel, set of panel members, rather, who have been asked to and have agreed to serve on the task force and I ask the body to override to the tune of 25,000 dollars to the gender fairness task force in the judicial bench to, I think, uncover a very unfortunate set of circumstances and that is disparate treatment based on gender that has been the result of the stereotypical responses of all parts of society, the judiciary being no different than others. I would urge the body to adopt this line-item veto override.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Landis. Senator Robak, followed by Senators Chambers and Rod Johnson.

SENATOR ROBAK: Thank you, Madam President. I vote to...I rise to sustain the veto of the line-item veto of this motion. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Robak. Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Madam President and members of the